

Kent County being connected

Del. 1, other projects making transportation easier

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DOVER — As dust has flown and heavy equipment has churned through mountains of dirt, a new system of roadways is beginning to emerge in and around central Delaware and lower New Castle County.

Whether it be Puncheon Run, Scarborough Road, Biddles Corner or Del. 1 through Kent County, the Delaware transportation arteries are winding their way toward completion, and within the next few years, it is likely there will be a number of changes in how people

live, work and drive Downstate.

The development that is predominant in northern New Castle County is gradually starting to creep south, and with the completion of the modern, high-tech roadways, Downstaters will be just about as likely to head to work in Philadelphia or Wilmington as they are in Dover, Milford or Georgetown.

What used to be a 1½-or 2-hour trip to Philadelphia is now about 15 minutes shorter. The trip to the Philadelphia International Airport is about like driving to Wilmington was a decade ago.

While U.S. 13 is still the main artery north and south through Delaware, the completion of Del. 1 will finalize a project that began decades ago and has cost a total of \$750 million. A project that took plenty of politi-

cal maneuvering and arm twisting and numerous studies to get under way, it is the largest taxpayer-funded project in the history of the state.

The money has come mainly from federal Transportation Trust Fund sources. Delaware Department of Transportation officials regularly point out very little state tax money has been spent on the project.

"I think it is safe to say the section of road, covering Del. 1 from the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal south will be done on time and within the dollar amounts allowed under budget requirements," said DelDOT spokesman Michael Williams.

Mr. Williams said there have been some increases in the budget since the project was

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Submitted photo/DelDOT

An overhead view of Scarborough Road at U.S. 113.